

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DEPARTURE STATEMENTS AT BEN-GURION INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OF
VICE PRESIDENT WALTER F. MONDALE AND PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM
BEGIN JULY 3, 1978

1. DEPARTURE STATEMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT WALTER F. MONDALE
MR. PRIME MINISTER, MR. SPEAKER, FRIENDS:
WE HAVE HAD A WARM AND WONDERFUL STAY IN ISRAEL. WE HAVE SEEN THE
BEAUTY OF YOUR COUNTRY AND THE BEAUTY OF YOUR PEOPLE. MY FAMILY, THE
AMERICAN DELEGATION, AND I ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY AND
KINDNESS THROUGHOUT OUR STAY, MR. PRIME MINISTER. AT THE CONCLUSION
OF THIS VISIT, I CAN SAY WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN
ISRAEL AND AMERICA IS STRONG. OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP IS FIRM AND
SECURE, AND WE LEAVE WITH RENEWED HOPE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
MR. PRIME MINISTER, MORE THAN A HALF CENTURY AGO, THEODORE HERZL
VOICED THIS DREAM. "I BELIEVE THAT A GENERATION OF WONDEROUS JEWS
WILL GROW FORTH FROM THE EARTH. THE MACCABEANS WILL RISE AGAIN.
THE JEWS WHO SO DESIRE WILL HAVE OUR STATE. THE WORLD WILL BE
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FREE BY OUR LIBERTY, ENRICHED BY OUR WEALTH AND MAGNIFIED BY OUR
GREATNESS." MR. PRIME MINISTER, IN YOUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY, SUCH
A GENERATION LIVES IN ISRAEL TODAY AND AMERICA AND ALL THE WORLD
HAVE BEEN ENRICHED BY YOUR EXAMPLE IN SO MANY WAYS. LONG LIVE
ISRAEL* SHALOM

2. DEPARTURE STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN.

MR. VICE PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER:

THE DAYS THE VICE PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE AND HIS DAUGHTER AND THEIR ADVISERS AND FRIENDS SPENT WITH US WERE DAYS OF A HOLIDAY FOR THE GOVERNMENT, THE KNESSET AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. WE MET OFTEN, WE HAD FREE, FRANK, EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. WE FOUND MANY POINTS OF AGREEMENT

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BASED ON DEEP UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. ADMITTEDLY, WE ALSO FOUND OPINIONS ON WHICH WE DIFFER, BUT THIS IS ALSO CHARACTERISTIC OF FRIENDSHIP. THESE WERE GOOD DAYS FOR OUR TWO NATIONS, MR. VICE PRESIDENT, AND WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM. WE ARE GREATFUL TO YOU, THAT YOU CAME TO SEE OUR COUNTRY TOGETHER WITH YOUR ASSOCIATES. AND WE SHALL EXPECT YOU TO COME AGAIN AND AGAIN

,
BECAUSE IF I MAY HUMBLLY SAY, ALTHOUGH TODAY IT IS QUITE HOT, IT'S AN INTERESTING COUNTRY AND A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, NEVER A DULL MOMENT, AND IT IS WORTHWHILE TO VISIT AND TO LOOK AT. MR. VICE PRESIDENT, I WISH YOU FAREWELL, GOD SPEED - (MAY YOU) BE SUCCESSFUL IN ALL YOUR VENTURES. YOU LEAVE ON THE EVE OF THE 4TH OF JULY - A GREAT DAY IN THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND OF ALL MANKIND. HAPPY HOLIDAY TO YOU AND TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE* LET US HOPE AND PRAY AND BELIEVE THAT WITH COMMON EFFORTS, WE SHALL ACHIEVE THE GOAL WE ALL WANT TO HAVE AND SOON: PEACE. THANK YOU MR. VICE PRESIDENT AND LET ME TELL YOU AGAIN WE SHALL EXPECT YOU TO COME - DO COME - TO ISRAEL* YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A WELCOME GUEST, TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY.

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